

LISTING OF CLAIMS

The Listing of Claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the above-identified application. Deleted matter is indicated by strikethrough, and added matter is indicated by underlining.

CLAIMS:

1. (Previously Presented) A multi-component catalyst structure for the polycondensation of a polyester monomer comprising the element germanium in an amount of from 1 part per million to 200 parts per million, and one or more catalyst enhancers selected from the group of elements consisting of aluminum in an amount from 1 part per million to 400 parts per million, silicon in an amount from 1 part per million to 400 parts per million, molybdenum in an amount from 1 part per million to 200 parts per million, manganese in an amount from 1 part per million to 400 parts per million, lithium in an amount from 1 part per million to 200 parts per million and combinations thereof, except for a combination of germanium and lithium, said elements being in the form of polycondensation compatible elements, compounds, acids, bases, salts, compositions, oxides or organic complexes.

2. (Currently Amended) A ~~multi-component~~ catalyst structure as claimed in claim 1 wherein the monomer is bis-hydroxy-ethyl terephthalate, which is polycondensed to produce polyethylene terephthalate.

3. (Currently Amended) A catalyst structure as claimed in claim 2 wherein the enhancer comprises ~~comprises~~ aluminum.

4. (Currently Amended) A catalyst structure as claimed in claim 2 wherein the enhancer comprises ~~comprises~~ silicon.

5. (Currently Amended) A catalyst structure as claimed in claim 2 wherein the enhancer comprises ~~comprises~~ molybdenum.

6. (Currently Amended) A catalyst structure as claimed in claim 2 wherein the enhancer comprises ~~[[is]]~~ manganese.

7. (Previously Presented) A catalyst structure as claimed in claim 2 wherein the enhancer is lithium and one or more of aluminum, silicon, molybdenum, and manganese.

8. (Previously Presented) A catalyst structure as claimed in claim 2 wherein the enhancer is two or more of aluminum, silicon, molybdenum, manganese, and lithium.

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Previously Presented) A catalyst structure as claimed in claim 9 wherein the amount of germanium is 5 to 100 parts per million and the amount of aluminum is 20 to 200 parts per million.

11. (Previously Presented) A catalyst structure as claimed in claim 9 wherein the amount of germanium is 5 to 60 parts per million and the amount of aluminum is 60 to 150 parts per million.

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Previously Presented) A catalyst structure as claimed in claim 12 wherein the amount of germanium is 10 to 80 parts per million and the amount of silicon is 10 to 200 parts per million.

14. (Previously Presented) A catalyst structure as claimed in claim 12 wherein the amount of germanium is 20 to 60 parts per million and the amount of silicon is 20 to 150 parts per million.

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Previously Presented) A catalyst structure as claimed in claim 15 wherein the amount of germanium is 1 to 100 parts per million and the amount of molybdenum is 1 to 100 parts per million.

17. (Previously Presented) A catalyst structure as claimed in claim 15 wherein the amount of germanium is 5 to 60 parts per million and the amount of molybdenum is 1 to 20 parts per million.

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Previously Presented) A catalyst structure as claimed in claim 18 wherein the amount of germanium is 10 to 80 parts per million and the amount of manganese is 10 to 200 parts per million.

20. (Previously Presented) A catalyst structure as claimed in claim 18 wherein the amount of germanium is 20 to 60 parts per million and the amount of manganese is 20 to 150 parts per million.

21. (Previously Presented) A catalyst structure as claimed in claim 2 comprising germanium, aluminum, and silicon.

22. (Previously Presented) A catalyst structure as claimed in claim 2 comprising germanium, aluminum, and molybdenum.

23. (Previously Presented) A catalyst structure as claimed in claim 2 comprising germanium, aluminum, and manganese.

24. (Previously Presented) A catalyst structure as claimed in claim 2 comprising germanium, aluminum, and lithium.

25. (Previously Presented) A catalyst structure as claimed in claim 2 comprising germanium, silicon, and molybdenum.

26. (Previously Presented) A catalyst structure as claimed in claim 2 comprising germanium, silicon, and manganese.

27. (Previously Presented) A catalyst structure as claimed in claim 2 comprising germanium, silicon, and lithium.

28. (Previously Presented) A catalyst structure as claimed in claim 2 comprising germanium, molybdenum, and manganese.

29. (Previously Presented) A catalyst structure as claimed in claim 2 comprising germanium, molybdenum, and lithium.

30. (Previously Presented) A catalyst structure as claimed in claim 2 comprising germanium, manganese, and lithium.

31. (Previously Presented) A catalyst structure as claimed in claim 2 comprising germanium, aluminum, silicon, and molybdenum.

32. (Previously Presented) A catalyst structure as claimed in claim 2 comprising germanium, aluminum, silicon, and manganese.

33. (Previously Presented) A catalyst structure as claimed in claim 2 comprising germanium, aluminum, silicon, and lithium.

34. (Previously Presented) A catalyst structure as claimed in claim 2 comprising germanium, silicon, molybdenum, and manganese.

35. (Previously Presented) A catalyst structure as claimed in claim 2 comprising germanium, silicon, molybdenum, and lithium.

36. (Previously Presented) A catalyst structure as claimed in claim 2 comprising germanium, molybdenum, manganese, and lithium.

37. (Previously Presented) A catalyst structure as claimed in claim 2 comprising germanium, aluminum, molybdenum, and manganese.

38. (Previously Presented) A catalyst structure as claimed in claim 2 comprising germanium, aluminum, manganese, and lithium.

39. (Previously Presented) A catalyst structure as claimed in claim 2 comprising germanium, silicon, molybdenum, and manganese.

40. (Previously Presented) A catalyst structure as claimed in claim 2 comprising germanium, aluminum, molybdenum, and lithium.

41. (Previously Presented) A catalyst structure as claimed in claim 2 comprising germanium, silicon, manganese, and lithium.

42. (Previously Presented) A catalyst structure as claimed in claim 2 comprising germanium, aluminum, silicon, manganese, and molybdenum.

43. (Previously Presented) A catalyst structure as claimed in claim 2 comprising germanium, aluminum, silicon, manganese, and lithium.

44. (Previously Presented) A catalyst structure as claimed in claim 2 comprising germanium, silicon, manganese, molybdenum, and lithium.

45. (Previously Presented) A catalyst structure as claimed in claim 2 comprising germanium, aluminum, silicon, molybdenum, and lithium.

46. (Previously Presented) A multi-component catalyst structure for the polycondensation of a polyester monomer comprising the element germanium and one or more catalyst enhancers selected from the group of elements consisting of silicon in an amount of from 1 part per million to 400 parts per million, molybdenum in an amount of from 1 part per million to 200 parts per million, manganese in an amount of from 1 part per million to 400 parts per million, lithium in an amount of from 1 part per million to 200 parts per million, and combinations thereof, except for a combination of germanium and lithium, said elements being in the form of polycondensation compatible elements, compounds, acids, bases, salts, compositions, oxides or organic complexes.

47. (Currently Amended) A ~~multi-component~~ catalyst structure as claimed in claim 46 wherein the monomer is bis-hydroxy-ethyl terephthalate, which is polycondensed to produce polyethylene terephthalate.

48. (Currently Amended) A catalyst structure as claimed in claim 47 wherein the enhancer comprises ~~comprises~~ ^{[[is]]} silicon.

49. (Currently Amended) A catalyst structure as claimed in claim 47 wherein the enhancer comprises ~~comprises~~ ^{[[is]]} molybdenum.

50. (Currently Amended) A catalyst structure as claimed in claim 47 wherein the enhancer comprises ~~comprises~~ ^{[[is]]} manganese.

51. (Previously Presented) A catalyst structure as claimed in claim 47 wherein the enhancer is lithium and one or more of silicon, molybdenum, and manganese.

52. (Previously Presented) A catalyst structure as claimed in claim 47 wherein the enhancer is two or more of silicon, molybdenum, manganese, and lithium.

53. – 55. (Cancelled)

56. (Previously Presented) A catalyst structure as claimed in claim 47 comprising germanium, silicon, and molybdenum.

57. (Previously Presented) A catalyst structure as claimed in claim 47 comprising germanium, silicon, and manganese.

58. (Previously Presented) A catalyst structure as claimed in claim 47 comprising germanium, silicon, and lithium.

59. (Previously Presented) A catalyst structure as claimed in claim 47 comprising germanium, molybdenum, and manganese.

60. (Previously Presented) A catalyst structure as claimed in claim 47 comprising germanium, molybdenum, and lithium.

61. (Previously Presented) A catalyst structure as claimed in claim 47 comprising germanium, manganese, and lithium.

62. (Previously Presented) A catalyst structure as claimed in claim 47 comprising germanium, silicon, molybdenum, and manganese.

63. (Previously Presented) A catalyst structure as claimed in claim 47 comprising germanium, silicon, molybdenum, and lithium.

64. (Previously Presented) A catalyst structure as claimed in claim 47 comprising germanium, molybdenum, manganese, and lithium.

65. (Previously Presented) A catalyst structure as claimed in claim 47 comprising germanium, silicon, molybdenum, and manganese.

66. (Previously Presented) A catalyst structure as claimed in claim 47 comprising germanium, silicon, manganese, and lithium.

67. (Previously Presented) A catalyst structure as claimed in claim 47 comprising germanium, silicon, manganese, molybdenum, and lithium.

68. (Previously Presented) A multi-component catalyst structure for the polycondensation of a polyester monomer comprising the element germanium in an amount of from 1 part per million to 200 parts per million, and the catalyst enhancers aluminum in an amount of from 1 part per million to 400 parts per million and lithium in an amount of from 1 part per million to 200 parts per million, said elements being in the form of polycondensation compatible elements, compounds, acids, bases, salts, compositions, oxides or organic complexes.

69. (Currently Amended) A ~~multi-component~~ catalyst structure as claimed in claim 68 wherein the monomer is bis-hydroxy-ethyl terephthalate, which is polycondensed to produce polyethylene terephthalate.

70. (Cancelled)

71. (Previously Presented) A catalyst structure as claimed in claim 68 wherein the amount of germanium is 5 to 100 parts per million, the amount of aluminum is 20 to 200 parts per million, and the amount of lithium is 10 to 80 parts per million.

72. (Previously Presented) A catalyst structure as claimed in claim 68 wherein the amount of germanium is 5 to 30 parts per million, the amount of aluminum is 60 to 150 parts per million, and the amount of lithium is 20 to 70 parts per million.

73. (Previously Presented) A catalyst structure as claimed in claim 1 wherein the aluminum is incorporated in the catalyst structure as a phenoxide, a lactate, a stearate, a glycolate, an oxalate, a citrate, or a tartrate.

74. (Previously Presented) A catalyst structure as claimed in claim 1 wherein the lithium is incorporated in the catalyst structure as a hydroxide, an acetate, a citrate, a carbonate, or an oxalate.

75. (Cancelled)

76. (Previously Presented) A catalyst structure as claimed in claim 46 wherein the lithium is incorporated in the catalyst structure as a hydroxide, an acetate, a citrate, a carbonate, or an oxalate.

77. (Previously Presented) A catalyst structure as claimed in claim 68 wherein the aluminum is incorporated in the catalyst structure as a phenoxide, a lactate, a stearate, a glycolate, an oxalate, a citrate, or a tartrate.

78. (Previously Presented) A catalyst structure as claimed in claim 68 wherein the lithium is incorporated in the catalyst structure as a hydroxide, an acetate, a citrate, a carbonate, or an oxalate.